

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 11, 13 – 24, 27 – 32 and 43 – 48 are pending in this application. Claim 2 has been cancelled and claims 1, 5, 29, 43, 44, 45 and 46 have been amended. No new matter was added. The allowability of claims 9, 13 – 18 and 27 – 32 is hereby acknowledged. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 4, 19, 45-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,988,298 to Lazzara et al (Lazzara '298). It is the Examiner's opinion that Lazzara '298 discloses an implant system comprising, a prosthesis 50 having a structural framework 52, and a cylinder (which could be more than one) 26, the cylinder having shelves 18 and 62 comprising grooves 16 and 17, the grooves having at least two sides. The Examiner notes that with regard to claim 4, axial opening 14 extends through the body. Claims 43 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S Patent No. 5,427,906 to Hansen (Hansen '906). It is the Examiner's opinion that Hansen '906 discloses a cylinder 30 designed to retain a structural framework material for a prosthesis in an implant system. The Examiner further notes that Hansen '906 discloses a cylindrical body 32, one or more grooves 39 having at least two sides, disposed on a surface of the body, and a cantilever 12 extending from the body. The Examiner states that with regard to claim 44, a series of holes 76 are located on opposite sides of the cylindrical body. For the reasons set forth below, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention is directed to a multi-unit implant system comprising a prosthesis having a structural framework material, composite material, or ceramic material and further comprising one or more cylinders; wherein the one or more cylinders comprises a substantially cylindrical body and one or more shelves are disposed on a surface of the substantially cylindrical body, wherein the one or more shelves comprise one or more grooves having at least two sides, and wherein the one or more grooves comprise one or more horizontally extending grooves and one or more vertically extending grooves. The invention is directed to a multi-unit system having both horizontal and vertical grooves. The horizontal grooves are used for wrapping

framework around the cylinders and the vertical grooves are used for inserting bars between two cylinders to form a multi-unit framework.

Lazzara '298 is directed to an abutment base for fixing an artificial tooth to a dental implant. The abutment in Lazzara '298 does not show vertical grooves as claimed in the instant application. The substructure 52 is built on the abutment 10 using the grooves 16 and 17, which are both the same. The abutment does not contain vertical grooves for manufacturing a multi-unit structure. The claims are not anticipated by Lazzara '298.

With respect to claims 43 and 44, they now depend on claim 1, therefore the rejection under Hansen is moot.

Claim 5 has been amended to overcome the objection. It is believed that claims 5 – 8, 10, 11, 20 – 24 are in condition for allowance.

In summary, none of the cited references teach a multi-unit implant system comprising a prosthesis having a structural framework material, composite material, or ceramic material and further comprising one or more cylinders; wherein the one or more cylinders comprises a substantially cylindrical body and one or more shelves are disposed on a surface of the substantially cylindrical body, wherein the one or more shelves comprise one or more grooves having at least two sides, and wherein the one or more grooves comprise one or more horizontally extending grooves and one or more vertically extending grooves.

Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1, 3 – 11, 13 – 24, 27 – 32 and 43 – 48 specify patentable subject matter and are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. The Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney at the number listed below if it will advance the prosecution of this case. If necessary, the Examiner is authorized to charge further fees necessary to advance the prosecution in this case from Deposit Account No. 500718.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann M. Knab', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

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